

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Is there any discussion on the motion to advance? Seeing none, Senator Withem to close. Waives closing. The question is advancement of LB 265 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 265.

SENATOR HALL: LB 265 is advanced. LB 146.

CLERK: LB 146, a bill introduced by Senator McKenzie. (Read title.) The bill was introduced in January, referred to Transportation, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Kristensen, to open on the Transportation Committee amendments.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, LB 146 is a bill brought to the body by Senators McKenzie and Day. The bill received a good hearing. There were a number of people that testified in favor of this bill. The committee amendments really do become the bill and they incorporate everything that Senator McKenzie and Day had in the original green copy, with the addition of the four things that I'm going to go quickly through. But this bill deals with, in fact, Senator Hall, this was your original legislation that established the Telecommunications Relay System for the hearing and blind, hard of hearing and the qualified deaf that speech impaired individuals in the State of Nebraska. What LB 146 does basically is to expand the scope of that act to allow for the equipment to utilize that Telecommunications Relay System to be granted and given to people. Currently, as you remember, the law is right now there's a seven-cent per month authorized fee on the service. That has ability to go higher but it is at only seven cents at this time. What the amendments do is provide for the assistance given to these people. They have to be low income qualified hearing impaired or speech impaired people. So that's the first change. They've got to...they've got to be qualified. The standards for that qualifications are that they should not exceed the poverty levels established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget. The third one is that no more than one cent can go for equipment. So, in other words, the total authorization that's out there to fund this system can't